(b) the action to ensure their presence in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Encouragement to Minority-focused Banks

797. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken to encourage Minority-focused Banks by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI);

(b) if so, the details of steps taken in the last six months to call a meeting of Minority-oriented Banks to stabilize and expand their work;

(c) the measures proposed to assist Minority-centred Banks;

(d) the funds earmarked for this purpose in 2007-08; and

(e) the specific steps on Micro-finance by banks for minority community taken by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) RBI has already issued a Revised Master Circular on Credit Facilities to Minority Communities dated 05.07.2007 which is available at RBI website *(www.rbi.org.in)*. Minority Communities have also been included in the category of 'Weaker Section' for availing credit within the Priority Sector Advances.

Under the Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities, Government has issued instructions to all Public Sector Banks to increase the flow of credit to Minority Communities from the existing level of 9% to 15% over the next three years. 121 Minority Concentrated Districts have also been identified to enhance banking facilities and extend financial services to members of Minority Communities. Banks have been advised to set up Special Cells headed by a Nodal Officer to monitor such programmes.

NABARD and SIDBI have been advised to increase their coverage in public programmes specially for micro finance and women. No separate budget provision has been earmarked by the Government as resources are to be garnered by the banks themselves on the basis of their own road map and action plans.

Nizam Trusts

798. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact Government has suggested that Nizam Trust properties be taken over directly by Government;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for proposals to abolish the Nizam Trusts of Hyderabad;

(c) the number of trustees on the various trusts of the Nizam of Hyderabad nominated by Government;

(d) whether there is an alternate proposal to increase the number of trustees nominated by the Government on the diverse Nizam Trust; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?